

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01267 220655Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /048 W
-----017244 220703Z /11

R 201000Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6355
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, IZ
SUBJ: NEW IRAQI AMBASSADORS

REF BAGHDAD 825 (NOTAL)

1. IRAQIS CONTINUE SLOW PROCESS OF FILLING AMBASSADORIAL VACANCIES, FOR THE MOST PART WITH PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS. AS NEW AMBASSADOR TO COURT OF ST. JAMES, IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN HISHAM ALSHAWI, FORMER CHIEF OF PROTOCOL FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DIWAN. (FULLER BIO INFORMATION BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL TO DEPT AND LONDON.)

2. THE NEW ENVOY TO BONN WILL BE MOHAMMED ZUHAIR ABDUL RAZZAQ AL-BAIRAQDAR, WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN ASSIGNMENT IN BERLINE. WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHY BAIRAQDAR HAS BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT BUT EXPECT THAT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN, A RARITY IN IRAQI DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES, WAS A MAJOR FACTOR.

3. THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO TUNIS, MOHAMMED SABRI
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AHMED AL-HADITHI, COMES FROM TEHRAN. HIS TENURE THERE WAS MARKED BY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN IRAQI-IRANIAN RELATIONS. SINCE, HOWEVER, THE COURSE OF THOSE RELATIONS HAS BEEN DETERMINED THROUGH HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL JOINT COMMISSIONS, WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER HADITHI ENJOYS CREDIT IN THE MATTER.

4. REPLACING HADITHI IN THE KEY TEHRAN ASSIGNMENT IS
ABDUL MALIK AHMED AL-YASSIN. YASSIN IS CURRENTLY
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH
ALL COUNTRIES OF THE NON-ARAB WORLD. (FULLER BIO INFORMATION
BEING SENT SEPTEL TO DEPT AND TEHRAN.)
PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780260-0071
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780642/aaaabkao.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a66c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 825
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2292037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW IRAQI AMBASSADORS
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a66c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014